

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 13-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to specifically recite how the rubber materials are fed to a rotating support as suggested on page 5, lines 11-15 and page 9, lines 24-27 of the Board's Decision.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Deist, U.S. Patent No. 3,170,499 taken alone or further in view of Hanson, U.S. Patent No. 2,849,049 and Okada, U.S. Patent No. 6,039,826.

None of the applied references disclose or suggest a method of laminating band-shaped uncured rubber materials, wherein (a) the first rubber material and the second rubber material are both fed directly from an individual feeding device to a feed control device that individually adjusts feeding quantities of the first rubber material and the second rubber material before being fed into the extruder directly via a hopper, and (b) the first band-shaped rubber member and the second band-shaped rubber member are directly placed on the rotating support from an end of a feeding portion of the extruder, as recited in claim 1.

Deist discloses two specific embodiments for supplying rubber to be applied to a tire carcass. Embodiment 1, as shown in Fig. 1, shows three separate breakdown mills 40, 41, 42, a blending mill 10 and a ribbon calendar 24. Although Deist suggests using extruder means, Deist fails to provide any disclosure or suggestion with regard to directly feeding rubber material from an individual blending mill 40-42 to a feed control device and thereafter to an extruder directly via a hopper. The second embodiment of Deist discloses hoppers 75-77 and mills 71, 72. Although the second embodiment discloses hoppers 75-77 that could be used as an individual feeding device, the second embodiment fails to additionally disclose a feed control device, an additional hopper and an extruder. Deist also fails to disclose feeding rubber materials directly from an end of a feeding portion to a rotating support.


Hanson and Okada fail to overcome the deficiencies of Deist because neither Hanson nor Okada discloses or suggests the individual feeding devices, feed control device, hopper and extruder, as recited in claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 13-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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